

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00765 261614Z

44

ACTION MED-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 HEW-02 AID-05 /023 W
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P 261535Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2337

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 0765

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMED, GR

SUBJECT: HEART SURGERY FOR GREEK CHILD

REF: (A) COLLINS/KIRBY TELCON OF JANUARY 9, 1976, (B) STATE 03749,

MED FOR DR. HENDERSON

1. AS NOTED IN REF A, THE PRESIDENT OF A LOCAL LABOR UNION (UNION OF HEAVY MACHINE OPERATORS) ASKED FOR THE EBMASSY'S ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF A CHILD OF ONE OF HIS MEMBERS. THE CHILD, A FOUR-YEAR-OLD BOY NAMED PETER VOURLIS, IS SUFFERING FROM A HEART CONDITION WHICH THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN BELIEVES SHOULD BE CORRECTED BY SURGERY AT AN "ORGANIZED MEDICAL CENTER ABROAD" WHERE GREATER EXPERTISE EXISTS.

2. UPON RECEIPT OF REF B, EMBOFF REQUESTED THE UNION PRESIDENT AND THE BOY'S FATHER TO SECURE FROM THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN THE RELEVANT MEDICAL RECORDS FOR SUBMISSION TO NIH THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S MEDICAL DIVISION. THE PHYSICIAN SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED HE WOULD ONLY RELEASE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION AFTER HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH THE EMBOFF. EMBOFF PHONED HIM JANUARY 23 FOLLOWING WHICH THE PHYSICIAN (DR. JOHN NIGOYANPOULOS) SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT THE RELEVANT INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO DR. STEPHEN E. EPSTEIN OF THE CARDIOLOGY BRANCH OF NIH. THE PHYSICIAN INSISTED ON THE DIRECT TRANSMITTAL OF HIS REPORT TO NIH

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 00765 261614Z

EXPLAINING THAT HE WAS DEALT WITH DR. EPSTEIN MANY

TIMES IN THE PAST ON SIMILAR CASES AND THAT HE KNOWS EPSTEIN VERY WELL.

3. AT THE EMBOFF'S REQUEST DR. MIHOYANNOPOULOS MADE A COPY OF HIS REPORT TO DR. EPSTEIN (IN THE FORM OF A LETTER DATED JANUARY 24) AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY. WE ARE FORWARDING A COPY TO THE MEDICAL DIVISION (ATTENTION DR. HENDERSON) UNDER SEPARATE COVER. MEANWHILE THE MEDICAL DIVISION MAY WISH TO CONTACT DR. EPSTEIN. THE EMBOFF STRESSED TO THE PHYSICIAN, AS WELL AS THE LABOR UNION PRESIDENT AND THE BOY'S FAMILY, THAT WHILE THE CASE IS BEING CONSIDERED SYMPATHETICALLY WE ARE, OF COURSE, IN NO POSITION TO MAKE ANY PROMISES CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING AN OPERATION IN THE U.S. FOR THE BOY.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER ADVICE AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPS.

KUBISCH

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